MULTIMEDIA UNIVERSITY

FINAL EXAMINATION

TRIMESTER 1, 2018/2019

LLC 0015 – LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION
(All sections / groups)

17 OCTOBER 2018
9 a.m. – 11 a.m.
(2 Hours)

INSTRUCTIONS TO STUDENTS

1. This question paper consists of **TWO** pages.

2. Answer **ALL** questions.

3. Write all your answers in the **Answer Booklet** provided.

Instructions: Answer ALL questions. [50 marks]

1. A number of animals have been reported to be able to learn human language either sign language, as in the case of Koko, the gorilla, or words as in the case of Alex, an African grey parrot. Since they are able to communicate with their trainers, do you think that these animals exhibit true linguistic creativity similar to human communication? Discuss your answer in relation to the features of human language.

    (10 marks)

2. Language ambiguity occurs when an expression can be interpreted in two or more possible ways. Though researchers have found that ambiguity can actually make language more efficient, it can lead to misunderstanding and misinterpretation.

    a. The cartoon below illustrates a type of ambiguity in language. Explain what type it is and why the man's utterance is a result of language ambiguity.

    (5 marks)

    b. Consider the sentence *"The police were asked to stop drinking in public places"*. Explain what type of ambiguity this is and why this sentence is ambiguous.

    (5 marks)

3. Language acquisition refers to the process by which humans learn a particular language. The process takes place early in life when acquiring the native language (L1). Second language (L2) acquisition refers to the learning of another language or languages besides the native language.

    a. State two similarities between L1 and L2 acquisition. (2 marks)
    b. State eight differences between L1 and L2 acquisition. (8 marks)

Continued...

4. Sexist language is language that excludes either men or women when discussing a topic that is applicable to both sexes. In other words, it unnecessarily identifies gender. Finding solutions for sexist language is not easy as sometimes gender-neutral language can sound awkward.

   a. Explain four instances how sexism exists in language. Provide a clear example for each one of them.

   (4 marks)

   b. Explain six examples of gender-neutral language.

   (6 marks)

5. With the advances in the acoustic theory of speech production and the technological developments in electronics, machine production of speech sounds has made great progress. Speech synthesis technology has proved useful for areas such as business and education. Nevertheless, text-to-speech programs face numerous challenges in providing input to the speech synthesizer. Explain, with examples, five difficulties that occur in text-to-speech programs.

   (10 marks)

End of Page